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ABSTRACT

The present edition brings back into print a popular parenting book that appeared in 1964 and which sold over half a million copies. It features Anglicized spelling and provides examples that fit the British rather than American culture. The book instructs parents in democratic methods for raising children and it addresses contemporary dilemmas parents now face. It is argued that autocratic methods of demanding children's submission are now obsolete and must be replaced by a new order based on the principles of freedom and responsibility. The pages describe simple ways that parents can learn to understand their children and how to help their children become contributing members of society. It is believed that when adults know what to do, children then learn to improve behavior and to increase their trust as well as their sense of responsibility. Some of the topics covered here include understanding the child, the fallacy of punishment and reward, the use of consequences, showing respect for the child, respecting others and the rights of others, maintaining routines, refraining from overprotection, making reasonable requests, following through, listening, having fun together, and the family council. An appendix shows how parents can apply their new skills. (RJM)

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